

[19 March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) These statistics are not maintained by the Government.

(c) and (d) Finance Minister has, in this Budget Speech 2001, announced setting up of a journalist Welfare Fund with the contribution of Rs. 1 crore, under the grants of this Ministry.

(e) Does not arise.

Foreign Equity for Satellite Channels

† 2423. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to permit 49 cent foreign equity in the field of satellite channels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any request has been received regarding limitation of foreign partnership to only 2.5 per cent of total equity capital; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (d) No, Sir. T.V. channels, irrespective of ownership, including equity structure or management control, are permitted to uplink from India through Govt, approved teleports or VSNL, provided they undertake to adhere to Programme and Advertisement Codes laid down by Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Downsizing of Ministry

2424. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision of downsizing the Ministry;

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, how many officials are going to be retrenched;
- (c) how much amount Government would be able to save with this; and
- (d) whether Government are facing some resentment from the affected employees?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) The Expenditure Reforms Commission headed by Shri K.P. Geethakrishnan, has made recommendations about re-organisation of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and its Media Units. The matter has been discussed with the Heads of Media Units and also by the Consultative Committee of MPs attached to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The need for revamping of Media Units and their reorientation has emerged during the consultations. Committees have been constituted to review some of the Media Units of the Ministry.

Functioning of Rajasthan and J and K Doordarshan Kendras

2425. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of low power Doordarshan Kendras in Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir not functioning satisfactorily, at present;
- (b) the details of existing ratings and capacity of these Doordarshan Kendras;
- (c) whether Government propose to increase the coverage of these Doordarshan Kendras;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that all the Low Power TV Transmitters in